

May 1953

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

Steps are being taken in conjunction with the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to enable former King Zog of Albania, as well as his immediate family, to come to the United States in the near future. CIA is accepting the responsibility for facilitating the entry of nine persons.

The BOPIEND/VALUABLE meeting scheduled to take place in Washington in June has been cancelled. The proposed agenda was to include: 1953 operations, leaflets, body drops, the National Committee for a Free Albania and future recruitment of agents. The possibility of coordination between the NCFA and the Yugoslav-sponsored Prisoner Committee of Albanian Refugees as well as possible courses of action to be taken in the event that the present Albanian regime is overthrown were also to be discussed. It is expected that [ ] BOPIEND representative [ ] will attempt to resolve the NCFA problem with the British representative in Rome. Other agenda items will be postponed until either [ ] can travel to London.

2. SINOPSIS

The Albanian project BOPIEND is directed [ ] by the

The construction of an island training site near Athens, which was begun in March and continued through April and May, is expected to be completed by 15 June, at which date a comprehensive agent-training program is scheduled to begin.

[ ] will return to Rome shortly. Their original departure date of 27 May was postponed in anticipation of the proposed BOPIEND/VALUABLE meeting in Washington which has since been cancelled.

Mr. Ihsan Toptani has been assigned to the NCFA headquarters in Rome from the Voice of Free Albania staff in Athens. His proposed trip to London has been cancelled.

3. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY - (BOPIEND)

A. Paramilitary

A resupply drop to Apple Team was successfully completed on the night of 1 May. A W/T message received on 4 May from Apple Team reported that the drop was successful although one man was injured by landing in a wooded area. Three men and two containers were dropped.

A segment of Apple Team including the team leader has been forced to rest half-way between the operating zone and the Greek border due to the leader's illness. W/T contact is being maintained with the group. The remainder of Apple Team is awaiting the arrival of two new teams led by men provided by King Zog.

B. Political-Psychological

The regular broadcast schedule was maintained by the covert radio Voice of Free Albania during May.

The semi-monthly newspaper Shqipëria was printed on schedule. Fifty-thousand copies of the miniature edition of the paper were printed for use by Athens in air drops over Albania. Negatives of the miniature were sent to London to be printed for British operations.

The Albanian News Bulletin, printed irregularly in English, French, and Italian, was issued for the first time on 13 April 1953.

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